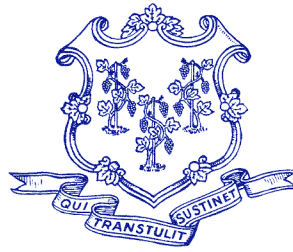


**SENATOR BETH BYE**

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**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

*Chair*  
Appropriations Committee

*Vice Chair*  
Childrens Committee

*Member*  
Education Committee  
Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Management Committee

March 11, 2015

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Environment**  
**SB 366 An Act Extending The Ban On The Use Of Lawn Care Pesticides To**  
**Schools That House Grades Nine To Twelve, Inclusive, And To State Facilities**

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Moore, Representative Arconti, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban, and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Beth Bye, State Senator representing the 5th District Towns of West Hartford, Farmington, Burlington, and Bloomfield.

I am here to testify in support of SB 366. The goal of this bill is to improve the public health for students, families, residents, and state employees in relation to pesticide use. Pesticides are proven to pose serious health risks, including cancers. According to Clean Water Action, studies indicate that pesticides are endocrine disruptors, which may cause reproductive disorders, neurological problems, and issues with immune system functioning.

When applied to ground surfaces, at schools and state parks for instance, these pesticides may also impact the water we drink, swim in, and the air we breathe.

Connecticut has already banned the application of pesticides on school grounds due to the increased health risks these chemicals pose to young children. Strengthening the state's position on pesticide use by expanding this ban will demonstrate a conscious effort to reduce harmful health effects to our families, communities, and citizens. We must consider the health of our children and succeeding generations as a top priority.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of this important bill, and I am open to any questions the members might have.

Thank you.

Beth Bye

Beth Bye